



U.S. Department of Justice

Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco,  
Firearms and Explosives  
ATF National Academy  
Glynco, GA 31524

AUG 12 2005

www.atf.gov

Colonel Christopher A. Knight  
Director, Florida Highway Patrol  
2900 Apalachee Parkway  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399

Dear Colonel Knight:

On July 9, 2005, a newly licensed 17 year-old girl and her 14 year-old brother were stranded in the middle of the Buckman Bridge on I-295 in Jacksonville. Their car had experienced a blowout and they were forced to stop on the shoulder during heavy traffic. The inexperienced driver was near panic as she called AAA for assistance. The AAA representative placed her in priority status for service, but advised her to call the Florida Highway Patrol for more immediate assistance. Shortly thereafter, Trooper H. M. Masoner responded to the scene. After quickly calming the kids, he changed their tire and ensured they were safely on their way with directions to the nearest tire store for a more permanent repair.

It occurs to me that Trooper Masoner's level of service to those two kids is of the sort that all of us in law enforcement hope to achieve--*that we can protect the public from harm in the most capable and professional manner*. As a fellow law enforcement officer, I am appreciative of the good work being done by Trooper Masoner and the Florida Highway Patrol. However, I will remain especially grateful to Trooper Masoner, as those two kids on the Buckman Bridge were mine.

Please pass along my appreciation to Trooper Masoner and the men and women of the Florida Highway Patrol for all that they do.

Sincerely Yours,

David G. Harper  
Chief  
ATF National Academy

